

THELECHITONIA CUATRECASAS, AN OLDER NAME FOR COMPLAYA STROTHER (ECLIPTINAE-HELIANTHEAE-ASTERACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

New combinations are made for the four species belonging to the genus *Thelechiton* Cuatr., based on *T. muricata* Cuatr. (= *Wedelia brachycarpa* Baker). The genus includes the three species recently placed in *Complaya* Strother, based on *Silphium trilobatum* L. (= *Wedelia trilobata* [L.] Hitchc.).

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Heliantheae, *Thelechiton*, *Complaya*, *Wedelia trilobata*

Recent considerations of the *Wedelia* group of the Heliantheae subtribe Ecliptinae have brought out two points of significance regarding the genus *Thelechiton* Cuatrecasas (1954). Cuatrecasas has noted, but not published, the fact that the type species of his genus, *T. muricata* Cuatr. of Colombia, has proven to be the same as the mostly central South American *Wedelia brachycarpa* Baker based on examining a fragment of the type collection of the latter, *Balansa 8550* (US) and other specimens at US. Cuatrecasas and Dr. Cabrera of Argentina had corresponded and agreed on the topic in 1965 (Cabrera, Cuatrecasas, personal communications). Also, it is noted that *Wedelia brachycarpa*, according to personal observations, was a fourth species of the genus *Complaya* Strother that has been omitted by Strother (1991) in the delimitation of his genus. The Baker species, which occurs mostly in Paraguay and adjacent regions, had all the characteristics cited by Strother for his segregate of *Wedelia* Jacq., including the prostrate habit with roots at the nodes, the solitary terminal heads that become laterally displaced, the black anther appendages, the thickened and often roughened achene walls, and the rostra and pappi that are obscured in mature achenes by development of a corky collar. As illustrated in the publication of *Thelechiton* (Cuatrecasas 1954), the bases

of the achenes in *Wedelia brachycarpa* are often more narrowly pointed than illustrated by Strother (1991), but the bases vary in the species. The leaves of *Wedelia brachycarpa* are not so succulent as those of some material cited by Strother, but many noncoastal specimens of the common *Wedelia trilobata* (L.) Hitchc. have leaves that are equally herbaceous.

The result of the observations cited above is that *Thelechitonina* is an older name for *Complaya* Strother. Since it has been the intention to follow most of the Strother alignments in the treatments of the Heliantheae in the Floras of Ecuador and Perú now in preparation by Robinson, new combinations are needed. The three species included in *Complaya* by Strother have been checked, and all three are transferred here. The fourth species also needs a combination since the name for the type species described by Cuatrecasas (1954) is not the oldest available name for the species.

Thelechitonina Cuatrecasas, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 101:242. 1954. TYPE: *Thelechitonina muricata* Cuatrecasas (= *T. brachycarpa* (Baker) Robinson & Cuatrecasas.

Complaya Strother, Syst. Bot. Monogr. 33:10. 1991. TYPE: *Complaya trilobata* (L.) Strother.

The genus contains the following four species.

Thelechitonina brachycarpa (Baker) H. Robinson & Cuatrecasas, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Wedelia brachycarpa* Baker in Martius, *Flora Brasiliensis* 6(4):181. 1884 (1885). Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Paraguay, Argentina, Venezuela. Specimens seen from Venezuela were determined as *Wedelia paludosa* var. *villosa*.

Thelechitonina chinensis (Osbeck) H. Robinson & Cuatrecasas, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Solidago chinensis* Osbeck, Dagb. Ostind. Resa 241. 1757. Eastern Asia.

Thelechitonina gracilis (Richard in Persoon) H. Robinson & Cuatrecasas, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Wedelia gracilis* Richard in Persoon, *Syn. Pl.* 2:490. 1807. Antilles.

Thelechitonina trilobata (L.) H. Robinson & Cuatrecasas, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Silphium trilobatum* L., *Syst. Nat.* ed. 10, 2:1233. 1759. Pantropical. Synonyms include *Wedelia brasiliensis* (Sprengel) S.F. Blake and *Wedelia paludosa* DC.

LITERATURE CITED

- Cuatrecasas, J. 1954. Nouvelles Composées de l'Amérique du Sud. Bull. Soc. Bot. France 101:242-246.
- Strother, J.L. 1991. Taxonomy of *Complaya*, *Elaphandra*, *Logeton*, *Jeffea*, *Wamalchitamia*, *Wedelia*, *Zerzenia*, and *Zyzyzia*. (Compositae-Heliantheae-Ecliptinae). Syst. Bot. Monogr. 33:1-111.